



**Subcommittee on National Security,  
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut  
Chairman

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**\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\***

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**Congressman Christopher Shays to Hold June 22<sup>nd</sup> Hearing on**

***“Nuclear Security: Can DOE Meet Facility Security Requirements”***

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to examine Department of Energy (DOE) efforts to improve nuclear facility security. The hearing will focus on DOE steps in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks to strengthen security of the Department's far-flung complex of facilities containing nuclear materials.

In September 2003, the Subcommittee asked the General Accounting Office to review physical security at DOE Office of Energy, Science & Environment (ESE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) facilities. The Subcommittee asked for an assessment of the challenges ESE and NNSA face in meeting more stringent post-9/11 physical facility security standards called the “design basis threat” or DBT.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) will testify about how well ESE program offices are positioned to protect nuclear material and operations from today's threat.

“As the Department succeeds in strengthening security barriers at active weapons sites and labs,” Shays said, “these decommissioned, or environmental management sites, may become the softer targets terrorists are looking for. But how much should DOE be spending on capital improvements and security enhancements at facilities that should close soon?”

DOE will testify about ESE processes for developing and evaluating the 2003 DBT implementation plans and the status of ESE efforts to implement the 2003 DBT at sites containing nuclear material of interest to terrorists.

The June 22, 2004 hearing will convene at 10:00 am in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

## Witnesses

### PANEL ONE

***Robin M. Nazzaro***, Director  
Natural Resources and Environment  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
accompanied by

***James Noel***, Assistant Director  
Natural Resources and Environment

***Danielle Brian***, Executive Director  
Project on Government Oversight

### Panel Two

***David Garman***, Under Secretary  
Office of Energy, Science and  
Environment  
Department of Energy

***Glenn S. Podonsky***, Director  
Office of Security and Safety  
Performance Assurance  
Department of Energy